1st 29th Aug

My dear Tom Rome 18 Aug 1870

I have just got home & you are the first in my mind & I hope that you are now really picking up & how I wish that you were with me & that I might be doing the nurse to you - but as there is a thousand miles between us, this cannot be

I am much brushed up by my three months at Tolfa for I made up my mind to walk myself off my legs & this I have done bravely, my only fear being in the danger of a fall in this rocky place, indeed I had 3 falls & except a little difficulty in getting up no much harm

I had improved so much that I was able to get up into the railway carriage without aid & get down - all this is well as I may

soon be in the midst of active service for the
french leaving Rome, all the mad republicans
may be soon agog & longing to sack Rome
but they'll find it more difficult for the city
is well prepared & can make a real defence
but I doubt these vagabonds will make
any other attempt they got so beaten the
last time 10 years when I was so ill & just
returned from my 1st Tolfa visit—

You see it has taken me 4 years to get
about—my suffering has been great but I
never sunk under it & I have great patience
so now if I have to take the "bull by the horns"
I can do it right well

24 You'll all be alarmed about me & think
me in danger as the french troops have been
removed from Rome & the Italian troops are on
the frontier to protect the Pope? but the hatred
between the two Govts of Rome & Florence make
me suspect danger & there is nothing now to prevent
the Italians pouncing down like wolves upon Rome

& I may have a more difficult part to act than I had before, but at all events I have more experience An English Frigate 16 guns has come to C. Vecchia, the object is not made known, but it is said to be the protection of the Pope - If a revolution in Paris takes place both Rome & Florence may be expected & unless Nap gets a victory a revolution seems certain - I will be very sad, for we are in such a beautiful world just now - Nap must have gone mad to have set about such an ugly state of things

Rome is very charming just now for the great heat is declining & the Autumn began with such a abundance of fruit that I dont remember the like, yet a gloom seems every where for the state of doubt is painful yet the Papal ministers have good hopes that all will go well

I come back to an old state of things - the Pope attempted to send away 3 English Ladies in 24 hours - two got frightened & left but I protected the third, bullied the Governor & made him disobey the orders of the Pope in fact, retained the Lady and defied his Holiness - Lord Clarendon approved my doings - I went away on May 23 & the Lady was still here - Now I find people astonished at my courage & boldness